

**Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations  
Criterion-Referenced Test**

**Released Item Book**

**Reading**

**Grade**

**8**



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Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test  
(WKCE-CRT)

## Released Item Book

### **What are released items?**

The items in this book are actual items from the fall 2005 state assessment, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT). These items will not be used again on the state assessment and may, therefore, be used in Wisconsin for professional development, improving instruction, and student practice. The items in this book illustrate the formats and kinds of items that students will encounter on the WKCE-CRT.

### **How do I use this book?**

#### *Professional Development*

Released items are useful as educators engage in conversations about what students are expected to know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency on the state assessments relative to the state model academic standards. Released items can inform discussions about state and local standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

#### *Improving Instruction*

Teachers may use released items in classroom activities that help students understand how to:

- solve problems
- determine which answer choices are correct, which are incorrect, and why
- respond to constructed response items with complete, thoughtful answers
- approach long and/or multi-step tasks
- use good test-taking strategies.

#### *Student Practice*

Students may perform better and with less anxiety if they are familiar with the format of the test and with the types of items they will be required to answer. See the accompanying guide for instructions on administering the released item book as a practice test and for the answer key. Note that a student's score on the practice test cannot be converted to a scale score, used to predict performance on the operational WKCE-CRT, or used to make inferences about the student's learning.

**Directions**

Read the passage “Juan Bobo’s Pig.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 9.

# Juan Bobo’s Pig

retold by Joseph Sobol

Have you heard the story of Juan Bobo and his pig?

Once upon a time in a little village in Puerto Rico, there was a little boy named Juan Bobo. One day Juan Bobo’s mother said to him, “*Juanito mijo*,<sup>1</sup> go and clean up the pig and make her look as beautiful as you can, so that when you take her to market this morning to sell her she will fetch a good price.”

Well, Juan Bobo always tried to do exactly as his mother told him. So he went and washed the pig with buckets of soapy water, and scrubbed her face with a warm washcloth—but she still didn’t look very beautiful.

So Juan Bobo went to his mother’s closet and got out her red taffeta<sup>2</sup> skirt with the elastic waistband, and he slipped that around the pig’s waist.

Then he went to the house of his great-aunt Margarita, who weighed almost three hundred pounds. He borrowed a blouse and a bright red wig, and he fit those onto the pig.

He outlined the pig’s eyes as best he could with black eyeliner and a touch of blue eye shadow; he put bright red lipstick on the pig’s lips; and he got two pairs of his mother’s high-heeled pumps and strapped those onto her trotters.

Now the pig looked *really beautiful* to Juan Bobo! So he put a rope around her neck and started to take her to market.

But halfway along the road to town they came upon a big muddy puddle. This big muddy puddle looked *really beautiful* to the pig. She threw herself down right in the middle of the big muddy puddle, and she rolled around a couple times, because it felt so good to her.

There was nothing Juan Bobo could do about it—because she was much bigger than he was, and sometimes she just forgot that Juan Bobo was supposed to be in charge. She kicked off her high-heeled pumps—all except one that got stuck sideways. She got the red taffeta skirt all covered with mud, she ripped one sleeve out of the blouse, tore off her wig, and completely ruined her mascara.

By the time Juan Bobo got the pig out of the puddle and all the way to town, she didn’t look so beautiful anymore. In fact, when the townspeople saw Juan Bobo and his pig, they laughed and laughed and laughed the two of them all the way back home.

So that today, in Puerto Rico, whenever somebody gets so dressed up that their friends almost—but not quite—don’t recognize them, people say that they are “all dressed up like Juan Bobo’s pig.”

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<sup>1</sup>**Juanito mijo:** Juan, my son

<sup>2</sup>**taffeta:** a shiny, smooth fabric

“Juan Bobo’s Pig” retold by Joseph Sobol, copyright © 2000 by Joseph Sobol. Used by permission of Marian Reiner for the author.

**1** Juan dresses up the pig in order to

- Ⓐ help sell it
- Ⓑ keep it clean
- Ⓒ make people laugh
- Ⓓ please his great-aunt

**2** Read this statement from the passage.

He outlined the pig's eyes as best he could with black eyeliner and a touch of blue eye shadow;

Which meaning of touch is used in this statement?

- Ⓐ a tiny dab
- Ⓑ a soft nudge
- Ⓒ an equal amount
- Ⓓ an individual style

**3** The pig probably jumps into the puddle in order to

- Ⓐ cool off in the mud
- Ⓑ make Juan Bobo angry
- Ⓒ make the townspeople laugh
- Ⓓ remove the makeup from her face

**4** Why is Juan unable to get the pig out of the mud puddle?

- Ⓐ The pig is stuck there, sideways.
- Ⓑ He has forgotten to bring a rope.
- Ⓒ The pig is much bigger than he is.
- Ⓓ He must stay clean for the market.



**5** Which of these best states a possible lesson in this passage?

- Ⓐ Respect your elders.
- Ⓑ Think before you act.
- Ⓒ Money is the root of evil.
- Ⓓ Better safe than sorry.

**6** This passage is an example of

- Ⓐ a folk tale
- Ⓑ a fairy tale
- Ⓒ science fiction
- Ⓓ realistic fiction

**7** What is Juan's mother most likely to do when he returns home with the pig?

- Ⓐ scold Juan for his foolish actions
- Ⓑ find the people who laughed at Juan
- Ⓒ punish the pig for causing problems for Juan
- Ⓓ send Juan to ask his great-aunt for another blouse

**8** Which of these ideas about animals is best supported by the events in this passage?

- Ⓐ Clean animals make wonderful pets.
- Ⓑ Trained animals are worth more money.
- Ⓒ Instincts determine an animal's behavior.
- Ⓓ Animals reward their owners for kind treatment.

**9**

**Explain how Juan might have prevented the problems he experiences in this passage. Be sure to thoroughly support your answer using details and examples from the passage. Write your answer on the lines below.**

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**Directions**

Read the passage “Why Is It So Hard to Get Ketchup Out of the Bottle?”  
Then answer Numbers 10 through 19.

# Why Is It So Hard to Get Ketchup Out of the Bottle?

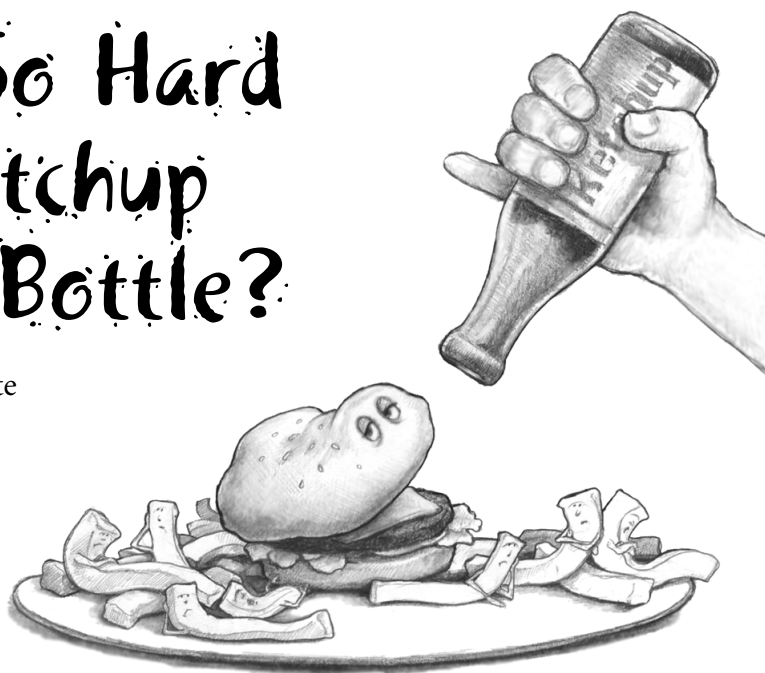
by Shawna Stuart Whyte

**T**he Super Double Cheeseburger Deluxe arrives at your table. You stare at the dripping burger and the tantalizingly crisp, golden French fries. The only thing that’s missing is the ketchup, so you grab the bottle and prepare to slather<sup>1</sup> your entire plate. You unscrew the cap, but . . . what’s this? Nothing is coming out! Why is ketchup so hard to pour out of the bottle?

Ketchup is a liquid, right? Not really. A solid? Nope. Actually, ketchup is a type of solution that sometimes acts as a liquid and other times acts as a solid. Ketchup and other solutions that have properties of both a solid and a liquid are called thixotropic solutions. Other thixotropic solutions that you may have in the house include yogurt and margarine. When yogurt sits undisturbed, it is a jellylike solid. When you stir it, it becomes more like a liquid. Margarine that has been refrigerated can become quite hard, but once it warms up, it becomes softer and more liquid—and much easier to spread on toast!

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<sup>1</sup>slather: to cover thickly



So why are thixotropic solutions so weird? Why can’t they just make up their minds and be one or the other: solid or liquid? The answer is that molecules of a thixotropic substance tend to form in long chains. When these substances are stirred or shaken, the chains of molecules break apart into smaller segments, allowing the yogurt or ketchup to act more like a liquid. Imagine that a bottle of ketchup is like a bottle full of string. You can see that pouring string out of a bottle is not going to be easy! But if you shake the bottle, the “strings” break apart into small pieces, which come out of the neck more easily.

Thixotropic solutions are also found in more exotic locations than the kitchen. Quicksand is a thixotropic mixture of sand and water. It looks like any other patch of sand, but once someone steps in it, the loosely packed molecules give way, causing the unlucky adventurer to sink into the quicksand.



Thixotropic mixtures of soil and water can be useful, however. Oil rigs use a thixotropic mix of clay and water to make “drilling mud.” This mixture is pumped down a drilling hole to keep the drill bit cool and lubricated. Drilling mud remains a liquid when it is being stirred by the drill, but acts as a solid around the sides of the drilling hole, which helps to keep the hole from collapsing.

Believe it or not, we have thixotropic fluid in our own bodies. This fluid is found in our elbows and knees, where two bones move against one another. It is called synovial fluid and it protects our bones and joints from damage. During normal movement, synovial fluid helps lubricate

the joint. But if the joint is hit or suddenly twisted, the fluid immediately becomes thicker. In this way, synovial fluid helps protect our joints from injury.

Now you know all about the mysterious, helpful, and sometimes frustrating behavior of thixotropic solutions, which, because of their unique<sup>2</sup> molecular structure, have some properties of both solids and liquids. Sometimes this can be helpful, as in the case of drilling mud and synovial fluid. Thixotropy can also be dangerous and deceiving, as in quicksand. Sometimes thixotropy is just plain curious—or irritating. It depends on how badly you want that ketchup out of the bottle.

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<sup>2</sup>**unique:** one-of-a-kind

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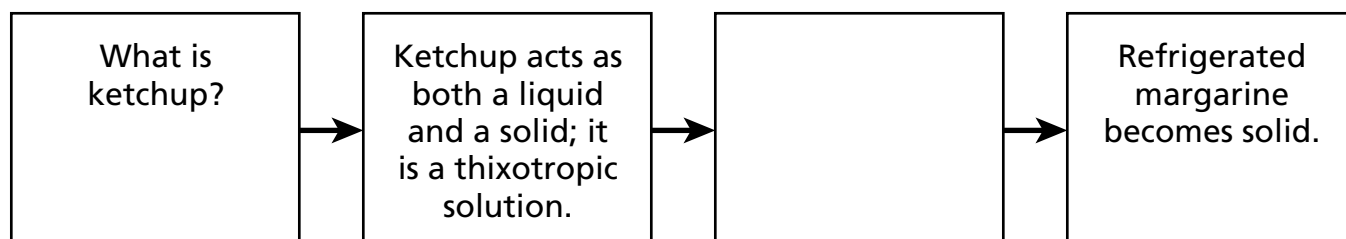
**10** The author most likely wrote this passage to

- Ⓐ show a connection between science and real life
- Ⓑ encourage readers to conduct scientific experiments
- Ⓒ provide a detailed explanation of molecular structure
- Ⓓ remind readers of how important it is to eat the right foods

**11** This passage is an example of nonfiction because it

- Ⓐ includes personal opinions
- Ⓑ asks and answers questions
- Ⓒ mentions objects from everyday life
- Ⓓ presents factual information on a topic

**12** Look at the boxes below, showing how details are arranged in paragraph 2 of the passage.



Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- Ⓐ Yogurt is solid until it is stirred.
- Ⓑ Margarine is more liquid when warmed.
- Ⓒ Margarine is easier to spread on toast after it is warmed.
- Ⓓ The ketchup bottle must be shaken before ketchup will pour out.

**13** Read this sentence from the passage.

Thixotropic solutions are also found in more exotic locations than the kitchen.

What does exotic mean in this sentence?

- (A) comfortable
- (B) glamorous
- (C) private
- (D) strange

**14** Read this dictionary entry.

**property** *n.* 1. Possession or possessions. 2. A quality belonging especially to something. 3. A piece of land or real estate. 4. The right of ownership.

Now read this sentence from the passage.

Ketchup and other solutions that have properties of both a solid and a liquid are called thixotropic solutions.

Which meaning of property is used in this sentence?

- (A) definition 1
- (B) definition 2
- (C) definition 3
- (D) definition 4

**15** Which of these sentences from the passage is an opinion?

- (A) Ketchup and other solutions that have properties of both a solid and a liquid are called thixotropic solutions.
- (B) Margarine that has been refrigerated can become quite hard, but once it warms up, it becomes softer and more liquid—and much easier to spread on toast!
- (C) During normal movement, synovial fluid helps lubricate the joint.
- (D) Sometimes thixotropy is just plain curious—or irritating.

**16** When does a thixotropic solution act more like a liquid?

- (A) when it is stirred
- (B) when it is cooled
- (C) when it is put away
- (D) when it is first opened



**17** When a joint is twisted, synovial fluid protects the joint by

- Ⓐ warming it
- Ⓑ lubricating it
- Ⓒ forming into smaller pieces
- Ⓓ becoming more like a solid

**18** The author most likely uses questions in this passage to

- Ⓐ help the reader understand the scientific terms
- Ⓑ surprise the reader with an unusual writing style
- Ⓒ interest the reader in the topic of thixotropic solutions
- Ⓓ test the reader who is unfamiliar with thixotropic solutions

**19** Which of these phrases best states how the information in paragraph 5 is organized?

- Ⓐ from cause to effect
- Ⓑ from facts to opinions
- Ⓒ by a main idea and supporting details
- Ⓓ by the order in which events occurred

**STOP** 



# Reading Grade 8 Released Item Book



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